

Portfolio performance report

Third quarter report

1 July 2019 to 30 April 2020
(Year-to-date)



To facilitate sustainable development in the Canterbury region

Te Huawaere i te kauneke tauwhiro i Waitaha



HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

We can all breathe clear air, play and swim in the rivers, gather mahinga kai, benefit from the productive use of our land, and enjoy Canterbury's unique biodiversity taonga and landscapes.



CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

We can live, travel, and move goods with ease, within and to/from the region, facilitating work, leisure and tourism.



RESILIENCE

We have access to the information we need to be resilient in the face of short-term hazards and well-prepared for longer-term change to our region's natural environment.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We can all help shape the future of Canterbury, leaving a legacy for generations to come.

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

WHAT WE DO

FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT

BIODIVERSITY & BIOSECURITY

TRANSPORT & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

HAZARDS, RISK & RESILIENCE

AIR QUALITY

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

HOW WE WORK

Our communities get value for money from us. Our citizens are engaged and enabled to play an active part in shaping the region's future.

We deliver customer-centric integrated solutions to our communities using regulatory and non-regulatory tools.

We use science, data and mātauranga Māori to support decision-making, build transparency and trust and create collective wisdom.

Our relationships with Ngāi Tahu and our communities provide a strong basis from which to work. We are strongest and most effective when we work together.

We promote and support a high performance culture. Our values are our foundation and guide us as we work with our communities.

OUR VALUES

People first
Manaakitanga

Collaboration
Whanaungtanga

Integrity
Pononga

Stewardship
Kaitiakitanga

Can Do
Māiatanga

Introduction

This document is the portfolio performance report for the third quarter of year two of the Long-Term Plan 2018-28. It has been prepared by staff as a report to Councillors, that we in turn are sharing with the community.

This quarter has been coloured by the COVID-19 pandemic – a crisis like no other. The Council has performed well under unprecedented circumstances, working hard to maintain delivery of essential services. Our priority has been manaakitanga/people first, putting the community at the centre of our work as always and looking after our exceptional staff.

Jenny Hughey

Chair, Environment Canterbury



Performance reports include matters of significance that have occurred in the year-to-date and are prepared for the Performance, Audit and Risk Committee of Council and for the community. Specific reporting on progress towards Levels of Service in the Annual Plan for 2019/20 are included in the performance report.

Environment Canterbury reports on activity by 'portfolio'. There are a total of 41 Levels of Service across the six portfolios, as noted in the Long-Term Plan. Depending on the activity within each quarter of the year, performance reports may focus more on one portfolio than the others. When relevant, the performance report will also indicate key matters coming up for the remainder of the year. Financial reporting is separate. However, any significant matters are included in the narrative of this report.

Reporting structure 2019/20:

Q1 – 1 July to 30 September

Q1 + Q2 – 1 July to 31 December

Q1 + Q2 + Q3 – 1 July to 30 April (Q3 extended to include COVID-19 impacts)

Q1 + Q2 + Q3 + Q4 – 1 July to 30 June, full financial year

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Summary information

Performance during the third quarter of the 2019/20 financial year (year two of the current Long-Term Plan) has been affected by the COVID-19 global pandemic. Given the unprecedented nature of this crisis, a special feature, *Caring through COVID-19*, has been added to the beginning of this report to summarise Environment Canterbury's response and impacts on work programmes. This reporting period has also been extended by one month due to the impacts of COVID-19.

The alert level four lockdown and subsequent restrictions prevented delivery of non-essential services, impacting Environment Canterbury's work programme for 2019/20. Most regional and zone delivery work was impacted for seven weeks, resulting in setbacks in biodiversity and biosecurity programmes, environmental monitoring, and compliance monitoring and enforcement programmes. There were major changes to public transport delivery, providing an essential service with reduced patronage. All non-essential flood protection and drainage work ceased and only works that were essential to protect life, homes and critical infrastructure were maintained. These impacts are further described throughout this report and reflected in the six levels of service which are at risk or will not be achieved due to COVID-19.

Zone committees and zone facilitators continued to contribute to improving water quality and biodiversity throughout the region through their focus on community engagement, supporting catchment groups and projects partnering with community groups in February and March. Committees were also setting their priorities and actions for 2020, electing their Chairs/Deputy-Chairs and getting started on priority projects. Zone facilitators have continued checking in with members and partners, holding online meetings, providing advice on Immediate Steps and shovel-ready projects and review processes.

Environment Canterbury has been working with partners to create a unifying brand and landscape-scale alignment

for braided rivers. *Braided River Revival - Whakahaumanu ngā awa ā pākihi* will align agencies and communities involved in braided river management, reviving the critical ecological corridors from the mountains to the sea and the connections between people and rivers.

The COVID-19 crisis has significantly disrupted public transport and will continue to do so over the coming year. Fares were not taken on public transport in Canterbury from March 25th until June 14th, with the Government providing funding to cover all fare revenue loss through this period.

The Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group coordinated the regional response to COVID-19, activating the Emergency Coordination Centre, which is resourced by trained staff from across Environment Canterbury. Work focused on welfare (needs assessment and fulfilment) and repatriation (isolation and quarantine coordination for flights to and from Christchurch).

In quarter three a solution for odour identification and management was piloted in Bromley. The pilot was established as an innovative and alternative way to assess how odours impact a community's amenity values. In collaboration with external experts, Christchurch City Council and industry, novel data collection and community engagement approaches were developed with the aim of better understanding the odour issue in the Bromley area, including the launch of the 'Smelt-it?' app.

At the end of April Bill Bayfield left Environment Canterbury after almost ten years in the role of Chief Executive. He has been appointed Establishment Chief Executive of Taumata Arowai, a new national water services regulator. The Council held an extraordinary meeting to confirm the appointment of Stefanie Rixecker, current Director of Science, to the role of Acting Chief Executive until such time as a permanent Chief Executive is appointed.



Caring through COVID-19

Environment Canterbury's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has centred around one of its core organisational values: manaakitanga/ people first

Like the rest of New Zealand and the world, Environment Canterbury has experienced a period of sustained disruption. The COVID-19 pandemic is a crisis like no other – its impacts are far-reaching, causing uncertainty for many people.

As an organisation, Environment Canterbury is well-positioned to respond and adapt in a crisis due to the experience of several emergency events in recent years. The first priority of the response effort was manaakitanga/ putting people first – customers, communities and staff – ensuring services were maintained as close to normal as possible.

Environment Canterbury quickly adapted to deliver its business while responding to COVID-19 – in both cases putting Canterbury communities at the centre of the work. This has included delivery of priority services such as the Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) and other essential services including public transport, maritime navigation safety, incident/pollution response and flood protection.

The aim of the Council is to emerge post-COVID-19 in a healthy state, able to support the recovery efforts and continue with important projects that contribute to the economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing of the Canterbury region.

Environment Canterbury's response

Environment Canterbury's response progressed swiftly – starting with the establishment of a Watch Group in late February which evolved to a Crisis Management Team by late March, operating under a coordinated incident management system (CIMS).

The purpose of the Crisis Management Team (CMT) was to coordinate Environment Canterbury's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and manage the impacts on the organisation. Key objectives have been enabling the organisation to deliver priority and essential services while balancing usual organisational activities and supporting staff to manage their health and wellbeing.

During alert level four, the CMT facilitated continued delivery of regional council essential services such as public transport and incident/pollution response. The CMT worked with the COVID-19 Local Government Response Unit, established by the Department of Internal Affairs, to determine which services were considered essential, and how these could be performed safely. A similar process was followed again at alert level three, further expanding the list of safe services the Council could perform. At alert level two, all regional council functions resumed with strict health and safety measures in place in accordance with Government guidelines.

Environment Canterbury Councillors also adapted quickly, carrying on with minimal disruption to Council business during lockdown. Formal Council meetings were able to continue thanks to emergency legislation passed by the Government that allowed Councillors attending virtually



to make up a quorum. There were some delays and rescheduling of meetings, but most scheduled meetings went ahead including Councillor briefings with staff and even public hearings for the draft 2020/21 Annual Plan – all held online. However, all water management zone committee meetings were postponed, and many other planned meetings have had to be rescheduled. As a result of the crisis, Councillors have increased their participation in the work of the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, working with territorial authorities on regional recovery.

A notable highlight of the response, thanks to the swift actions of the Business Information Services team, was the organisation's transition to operating virtually. Every staff member had the ability to remotely access the Environment Canterbury network before the alert level four lockdown began, enabling staff who were able (the vast majority) to engage in meaningful 'desktop' work from home. Establishing this remote access ability for all staff was a significant achievement that proved critical to maintaining business continuity.

Another important feature of the organisation's response has been the caretaking of staff welfare. The Council decided early on that no redundancies would be made as it was important to offer job security during uncertain times and to ensure the organisation was well-positioned to support the post-COVID-19 recovery. As a dedicated function within the CMT, the Welfare team has done an excellent job of supporting staff (as reported by staff) throughout its COVID-19 response.

For example, as priorities shifted during lockdown and some tasks were put on hold, considerable effort was made to ensure those impacted were re-assigned, providing a sense of purpose while also maintaining productivity. At the other end of the spectrum, support was offered to staff experiencing hardship as a result of COVID-19, including increased flexibility in working hours and the provision of COVID-19-related special leave. Notably, only 6% of staff time was impacted by restricted duties or COVID-19-related special leave during the first four weeks of alert level four lockdown. Many staff

experienced increased workloads responding to COVID-19, particularly in the essential services areas, and many staff reported that they benefitted from improved productivity with the flexibility of working from home.

Civil Defence Emergency Management

The Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group is a regional council function that operates as its own entity. Environment Canterbury's CDEM staff are among the most experienced emergency responders in the country. The Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) was quickly activated to support the nationally led response and coordinate the numerous agencies providing support across Canterbury.

The Canterbury CDEM Group played a vital role in providing welfare support for Cantabrians affected by COVID-19. A regional 0800 help line was established in partnership with all Canterbury territorial authorities, to provide support for Cantabrians with critical welfare needs such as providing food parcels for those unable to access essential supplies themselves.

In addition to the ten dedicated CDEM staff, a further 20 Environment Canterbury staff supported the response, working across all incident management functions including welfare, intelligence, planning, public information management, logistics and operations.

The ECC led the coordination for the isolation and quarantine process for passengers arriving into Christchurch, working closely with the New Zealand Defence Force, Canterbury District Health Board, Police, Christchurch Airport and several hotels.

Staff were on the frontline at Christchurch Airport arranging buses and hotels for Kiwis entering mandatory isolation or quarantine following repatriation flights. Care was taken right down to the last detail, including providing donated toys to children in isolation.

Impacts on work programmes

While lockdown prevented delivery of on the ground

services, most staff were able to maintain near normal productivity while working from home, progressing strategic and operational planning, developing internal assets such as process maps, preparing work plans and resources ready for when restrictions eased, processing consent applications and answering customer enquiries by phone or email.

Despite this work ongoing, the lockdown period and subsequent restrictions have impacted Environment Canterbury's work programme for 2019/20. Most regional and zone delivery work was impacted for seven weeks, resulting in setbacks in biodiversity and biosecurity programmes, environmental monitoring, and compliance monitoring and enforcement programmes. There were major changes to public transport delivery, providing an essential service with reduced patronage. All non-essential flood protection and drainage work ceased and only works that were essential to protect life, homes and critical infrastructure were maintained. Support and engagement projects with community groups have been delayed and community collaboration processes planned for March and April have not progressed on time. Plan Change 7 (PC7) to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP) has also been delayed.




These impacts are further described throughout this report and reflected in the six levels of service which are at risk or will not be achieved due to COVID-19. Although some Levels of Service may not be achieved, overall there was increased activity during the COVID-19 response and Environment Canterbury staff and Councillors have experienced the benefits of remote-working technology and increased productivity during this time that will no doubt see Environment Canterbury emerge more agile than ever.





Annual Plan 2019/20

Summary of Levels of Service (LOS)

The Council's Long-Term Plan is refreshed every three years. In the years in-between, an Annual Plan is prepared to describe the activities to be undertaken by the Council. The Long-Term Plan and Annual Plans must include performance measures – Levels of Service – to enable the community to assess how the Council is doing. The Levels of Service are the Council's commitments to the community, describing specific, measurable outputs or outcomes. For each Level of Service, there are measures and targets to be achieved each year. For full details of each Level of Service and the measures and targets, please refer to the Annual Plan 2019/20, available on the Environment Canterbury website: ecan.govt.nz/annualplan



Portfolio	Programme	LOS No.
FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT 	In partnership with the Canterbury region's district and city councils and Ngāi Tahu, facilitate the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) zone and regional committees to provide ongoing and improved community input to water management decisions.	1
	Gather and make available information on water quantity, water quality, ecosystem health, soils, and progress towards the CWMS target.	2
	In partnership with other parties, implement the recommendations in the zone implementation and regional programmes.	3
	Work with the zone committees to lead a community process to collaboratively establish environmental limits for water quality and water quantity in Canterbury.	4
	Facilitate an integrated approach to development of water infrastructure in Canterbury that delivers on all the CWMS targets.	5
	Environment Canterbury will work in partnership to implement a joint programme to progress the vision to restore and rejuvenate the mauri and ecosystem health of Te Waihora (Lake Ellesmere) and its catchment.	6
BIODIVERSITY & BIOSECURITY 	Environment Canterbury works with Ngāi Tahu, communities, territorial authorities, Department of Conservation, willing land owners and other recreational, environmental and industry parties to protect and restore Canterbury's indigenous biodiversity.	7
	Environment Canterbury administers and implements a Regional Pest Management Plan and provides incursion response and pathway management to prevent the establishment and spread of pests in the region to support economic production, biodiversity and mahinga kai.	8
	Environment Canterbury works in partnership with other management agencies, Ngāi Tahu, willing landowners and local communities to maintain the natural character and mahinga kai of Canterbury's braided rivers.	9
	Environment Canterbury works in partnership with Ngāi Tahu, willing landowners and local communities to support the maintenance of biodiversity and mahinga kai, in Canterbury's wetlands.	10
HAZARDS, RISK & RESILIENCE  <i>(including the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group LOS 39,40,41)</i>	Delivering information and advice to communities and decision makers about natural hazards.	11
	Providing flood alerts and warnings when agreed trigger levels are exceeded.	12
	Enabling safe navigation for ships and other commercial vessels in ports, harbours and coastal areas.	13
	Enabling safe navigation for recreational vessel users of the coast, harbours and inland waterways.	14
	Flood protection and drainage infrastructure is maintained to agreed levels of service defined in Asset Management Plans and in consultation with rating district committees.	15
	Environment Canterbury's 30-year Infrastructure Strategy outlines a schedule of river and drainage schemes to be reviewed in order to deliver community outcomes.	16
	The extraction of the fluvial gravel resource is sustainably managed for flood and erosion control purposes while protecting and where possible enhancing cultural and environmental values.	17
	Maintain and continue to develop Regional Parks and 3,000 ha of pine forest, to deliver a mix of services including biodiversity, recreation, protection of rating district assets and revenue.	18
	Provide information on coastal hazards so our communities and partners can make informed decisions.	19
	Monitor coastal water quality and ecosystem health.	20
	Active partnership of the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group and provide for the support, information, and administration needs of the group office and Emergency Coordination Centre.	21
	Identify and monitor contaminated land.	22

HAZARDS, RISK & RESILIENCE		Support our communities to become more risk literate and resilient to climate change.	23
		Meeting the objectives of the 2014 Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan.	39
		Providing a co-ordinated response capability to enable the community to respond effectively to emergencies.	40
		Providing facilities for co-ordinating emergency response and recovery work.	41
TRANSPORT & URBAN DEVELOPMENT		Facilitate and support prioritised investment in Canterbury's transport network by local and central government.	24
		Integrate land use, transport and hazards planning into the identification of land to provide for residential and business growth.	25
		Assist strategic partners in the development, amendment or implementation of regeneration plans in line with the Greater Christchurch Regeneration Act 2016.	26
		Deliver a quality, cost effective public transport service that meets the needs of the community and results in increased patronage.	27
AIR QUALITY		Our airshed monitoring and investigations inform our work programmes.	28
		In Clean Air Zones, where home heating is the biggest contributor to winter air pollution, we work with groups, agencies, homeowners and the wood burner industry to reduce PM10 emissions from home heating.	29
		Our consenting process and compliance programmes give effect to the Canterbury Air Regional Plan.	30
REGIONAL LEADERSHIP		Our citizens are engaged and enabled to play an active part in shaping our region's future.	31
		Environment Canterbury has clearly articulated a strategic direction and priorities for the organisation.	32
		Environment Canterbury's work and regional leadership is grounded in enduring relationships and collaborative agreements.	33
		Our Long-Term Plan, Annual Plans and Annual Reports provide evidence of sound business planning.	34
		Environment Canterbury works collaboratively with the region's district and city councils in the review of their district plans.	35
		Environment Canterbury delivers customer-centric regulatory services to our community.	36
		Communities and decision-makers have easy access to relevant, timely, and accurate data and information.	37
		The Environment Canterbury Customer Services team provide access to data, information and advice.	38

Achieved

The target associated with Freshwater Management Level of Service 1 has been achieved.

- Target 1.1: At least 100 community Zone and Regional opportunities for engagement per year are held and will be reported yearly for each Zone and made available on our website.
118 meetings were held by 28th April 2020.

The target associated with Hazards, Risk & Resilience Level of Service 22 has been achieved.

- Target 22.1b: Year two: Completion of one district
The hazardous activities and industries list (HAIL) identification project were completed in Hurunui and Kaikōura districts.

Won't be achieved

The target associated with Biodiversity & Biosecurity Level of Service 9 will not be achieved in 2019/20.

- Target 9.1a: Develop a ki uta ki tai plan for one priority river annually, with the first plan being delivered by 30 June 2020 and then one plan for each year afterwards.
COVID-19 restrictions have delayed stakeholder engagement required for the development of the first ki uta ki tai/mountains to the sea plan.

Three of six targets associated with Transport & Urban Development Level of Service 27 will not be achieved in 2019/20.

- Target 27.2: 20 million trips by 2020 and 35 million trips by 2030.
As central city regeneration has been slower than anticipated this target cannot be met and it has since been revised in the Regional Public Transport Plan to 18 million by 2024.

- *Target 27.3: 3% of total trips by 2020 and 5% of total trips by 2030 as measured by the Ministry of Transport latest household travel survey.*

This target will now be based on the revised Regional Public Transport Plan target in 27.2.

- *Target 27.4: 50% cost recovery from passengers in Canterbury by 2020.*

This target was revised in the Regional Public Transport Plan to better reflect current conditions with the target now stating, 'to maintain and improve on current farebox', which is currently being achieved.

One of the two targets associated with Air Quality Level of Service 28 will not be achieved in 2019/20.

- *Target 28.1: Airshed monitoring and reporting is completed to the National Environmental Standard for Air Quality requirements.*

Faults at the Rangiora and Kaiapoi monitoring stations during the alert level four lockdown resulted in lost ability to collect monitoring data, so only 92% of the 95% of data required under the NESAQ guidelines has been captured.

The target associated with Regional Leadership Level of Service 32 will not be achieved in 2019/20.

- *Target 32.2: At least 95% of the Levels of Service targets included in the 2018-28 LTP achieved each year.*

It is expected that at least five Level of Service targets across all portfolios will not be achieved, resulting in failure of this target.

One of the four targets associated with Regional Leadership Level of Service 33 will not be achieved in 2019/20.

- *Target 33.1: Environment Canterbury-Ngāi Tahu Governance meetings are held quarterly, and working group forums are held every two months. Work plans are in place and reviewed annually.*

Scheduled meetings for March and April were cancelled as a result of the alert level four lockdown, work planning has not been affected.

One of the three targets associated with Regional Leadership Level of Service 37 will not be achieved in 2019/20.

- *Target 37.2b: Develop framework for coordinated reporting on mātauranga Māori alongside state of the environment information (2019/20).*

Capacity issues for Environment Canterbury and the contractor has meant the target will not be achieved this financial year.

Not on track

The target associated with Regional Leadership Level of Service 38 is not on track and may not be achieved in 2019/20.

- *Target 38.1: 95% or more of sampled customer service interactions, on average over each year, meet service standards.*

This target is at risk as some staff have been unable to work at the same capacity when working from home (noting this Level of Service was on track to be achieved as at March 2020).

Portfolios

Environment Canterbury's work is structured into six portfolios:

**FRESHWATER
MANAGEMENT**



**BIODIVERSITY
& BIOSECURITY**



**TRANSPORT &
URBAN DEVELOPMENT**



**HAZARDS, RISK
& RESILIENCE**



AIR QUALITY



**REGIONAL
LEADERSHIP**



The following pages include key points to note for the year-to-date by portfolio.



Engagement and education for Canterbury communities

In quarter three work has continued to empower communities, working together with landowners, community and industry groups towards on the ground locally-led solutions. Many programmes were interrupted by COVID-19.

Supporting community engagement

Zone committees and zone facilitators continued to contribute to improving water quality and biodiversity throughout the region through their focus on community engagement, supporting catchment groups and projects partnering with community groups in February and March. Committees were also setting their priorities and actions for 2020, electing their Chairs/Deputy-Chairs and getting started on priority projects. Following the Government's announcement of the COVID-19 alert level system on 21 March, all upcoming meetings, workshops and field trips for zone committees and the regional committee were necessarily postponed until further notice. Zone facilitators have continued checking in with members and partners, holding online meetings, providing advice on Immediate Steps and shovel-ready projects and review processes.

Zone based projects

All ten zone committees across the region are identifying projects for Immediate Steps biodiversity funding, in line with zone priorities and in partnership with willing landowners. Much project work was paused during alert level four and resumed at either alert level three or two as appropriate. Highlights include:

Northern zone

- Improvements to Nagari and Hapuku wetlands following fencing and weed control.

Portfolio:

**FRESHWATER
MANAGEMENT**



Levels of Service:

1

ACHIEVED

5

ON TRACK

0

NOT ON TRACK

0

WON'T ACHIEVE

Community Outcomes:



- Waiau Toa/Clarence River aerial weed control and bird habitat projects show good results.
- Working with landowners to plant trees, permanently exclude stock through fencing and identify areas for retirement.
- In Waimakariri the first mahinga kai 'shed talk' was held in February to engage with landowners whose Farm Environment Plans are required to include mahinga kai values.
- Supporting Lees Valley landowners to protect remaining wetlands by providing information on planting options and by excluding stock.

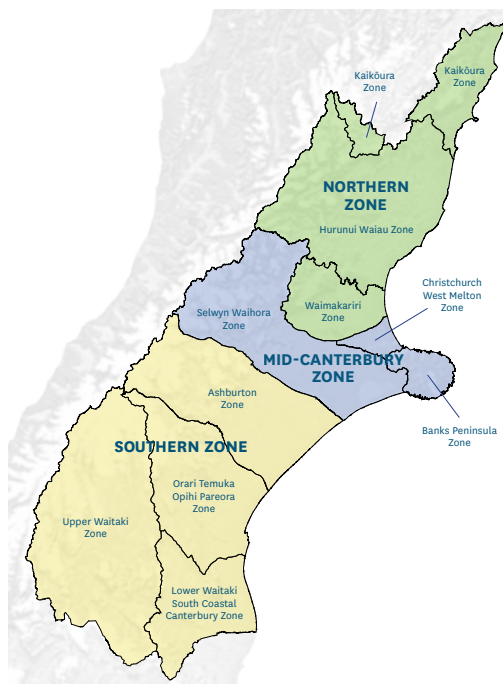
Mid-Canterbury zone

- Organising a programme to support long-term consistent methods to manage erosion and sediment control (ESC) including identifying industry requirements and training. Eighty participants have taken an ESC management course.
- A zone committee working group with members from the Cashmere Stream Care Group, Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network and the community boards are working on practical actions to address sediment issues in the Cashmere stream.
- The partners of the Whakaraupō Catchment Management Plan met for a noho marae and hui in February hosted by Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke to strengthen connections and collaboration.

- Building on existing mahinga kai awareness raising, Central Plains Water Ltd and Environment Canterbury jointly produced a mahinga kai survey to inform the development and rollout of 'shed talks' and education for scheme members.
- Working with Selwyn District Council on key projects such as Swimmable Selwyn @ Coes Ford, investigating sources of water quality decline and implementing a plan with landowners, community groups and schools to increase the distance of fences from the river and increase planting on the riverbanks.
- Supporting and working with a number of parties to finalise a plan for the ecological restoration and weed management of key sites at Rakaia Gorge.

Southern zone

- In the Ashburton Lakes Basin work continues with the Department of Conservation, Ngāi Tahu, landowners and other stakeholders to investigate deteriorating water



quality. A work programme was agreed to investigate and put in place appropriate mitigations such as nutrient modelling and an evaluation of land use options.

- Supporting the new Ahuriri Catchment Collective (catchment group) and independent facilitator established in response to the Trophic Level Index exceedance for the Ahuriri Arm of Lake Benmore to run Good Management Practice events for farmers in the catchment.
- 'Love our Lakes' campaign to raise awareness on water quality in the lakes and how to look after the lakes.
- Working with the community to set up a catchment group in the Northern Streams area of the Lower Waitaki and investigating funding options to better support the existing Waihao-Wainono and Hakataramea groups.
- Community restoration plans are in development for Waihao river at McCulloch's Bridge.

Farm Environment Plans

The Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP) requires the implementation of Good Management Practices on farms to achieve water quality outcomes. Farm Environment Plans (FEPs) enable farmers to recognise and record environmental risks unique to their property and set out a programme to manage those risks. They are a requirement for farms that are part of a collective (irrigation scheme or farming enterprise) or have an individual farming consent. The majority of farmers have obtained the required FEPs and land use consents to farm. Environment Canterbury is now focused on continuous improvement to the independent FEP auditing process to maintain the high level of compliance reported so far.

Infrastructure projects

A number of projects to improve water quality, support river flows, particularly during dry periods, and groundwater levels continue to be trialled in the region.

The Waikirikiri/Selwyn Near River Recharge project has continued preparations for scheme commissioning and wider landscape planting. Work has been delayed by COVID-19 and is now planned for late May to September 2020.

The Hekeao Hinds Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) project trial began a new phase in February 2020, led by the Hekeao Hinds Water Enhancement Trust with funding support from the Provincial Growth Fund. The key objectives to June 2022 are the expansion of MAR concept trialling from individual sites out to catchment scale and the preparation of a business case for a catchment scale MAR scheme. Upon overall project completion ownership will transfer to the community.

During alert level four all site-based construction and operation of infrastructure projects, apart from the Hekeao Hinds Near River Recharge site, was put on hold due to restrictions on travel and non-essential *E. coli* testing requirements.

Whakaora Te Waihora

At the end of March 2020, although most projects in the Whakaora Te Waihora programme were on track for implementation, due to the impacts of COVID-19 the majority of project works were postponed. Key achievements are outlined below.

The Whakaora Te Ahuriri project completed the installation of 80,000 aquatic plants, bringing the total to 124,000 plants installed at this constructed wetland. Once the last earthworks connect the wetland with the Huritini/Halswell River, the constructed wetland will be operational, which will improve water quality as well as mahinga kai and biodiversity values.

The Weed Strike Force partnership with the Department of Conservation continued to make good progress with willow and weed control at lakeshore sites.

Resource consent applications were submitted for the restoration of Papatahora (a tributary of Te Waikēkēwai/ Waikēkēwai Stream) under the Whakaora Te Waikēkēwai project in partnership with Te Taumutu Rūnanga.

Work has begun on a feasibility assessment for a wetland on the lakeshore at the end of Embankment Road.



Installation of 80,000 aquatic plants at the Whakaora Te Ahuriri constructed wetland

Regional planning

A recommendation on Plan Change 1 to the Hurunui Waiau River Regional Plan was received and adopted by Council in February 2020. No appeals were received.

Plan Change 7 (PC7) to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP) relates to the Waimakariri and Orari Temuka Opihi Pareora (OTOP) sub-regions and also an omnibus plan change that proposes some changes to region-wide policies. Preparations have been undertaken for a hearing scheduled in May, which was now been delayed

124,000 plants

had been planted at the Whakaora Te Ahuriri constructed wetland up from 72,000 at 31 December 2019



due to COVID-19. Focus has turned to future planning projects and the 2023 notification which will be guided by the national Essential Freshwater package.



Aquatic plants growing well under protective netting at the Whakaora Te Waihora constructed wetland

Freshwater science and data

Environment Canterbury's groundwater science teams have provided significant technical leadership over the last year and a half working with regional councils on the new Groundwater Quality topic on the national LAWA website. The Groundwater Quality section of the website was launched across New Zealand in April to improve public access to council data. More detail on this can be found in the Regional Leadership section of this report.

Environment Canterbury's contribution to the data is supported by long-term monitoring of river flows, groundwater levels and water quality at over 1000 sites across the region which continued through summer. From late March field work was unable to be carried out at manual sites during alert level four and with limited field work recommencing at alert level three.

Environment Canterbury's Water Data team have created a dataset allowing plan limits to be compared with consented allocation for each groundwater zone and river reach at the

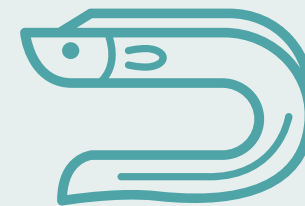
touch of a button. This follows a single accounting method consistent with the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP). Three test tools have been developed from this for easier access to consistent data.

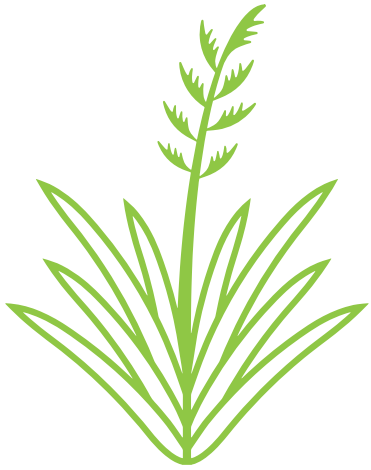
Canterbury Water Management Strategy for the future

To implement the 'Fit for the Future' project of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS) work has continued toward a regional work programme as requested by the Mayoral Forum. Liaison has continued between district and city councils and Environment Canterbury to develop the work programme. Reporting back to the Chief Executive and Mayoral Forum meetings was planned for May but was unable to occur with changing priorities due to COVID-19. This work aims to demonstrate how progress is being made on the delivery of the 2025 CWMS goals.

Freshwater Management programmes:

- Resource Management Act Water Framework
- Canterbury Water Management Strategy Facilitation
- Environmental Monitoring and Progress Reporting
- Canterbury Water Management Strategy Regional Water Infrastructure
- Te Waihora Restoration
- Zone and Regional Delivery





Enhancing habitats and managing threats

Environment Canterbury has been working with partners across Canterbury communities to identify priority areas, enhance habitats and manage threats to biodiversity. Community engagement has led to advancements in best practice, new technologies and innovative solutions tailored to Canterbury's unique ecosystems.

Fish habitat improvements

The fish habitat programme involves collaboration with partners across the region to identify, prioritise and remediate fish habitats. This year there are 15 projects underway to remove barriers for fish movement or enhance the habitat available for fish.

Over the summer two students were employed in partnership with Christchurch City Council and a project was developed with Koukourārata Rūnanga where the students assessed instream structures on Banks Peninsula to determine if there were barriers for fish movement. Environment Canterbury will use this information to prioritise barrier remediation work and habitat enhancement around key catchments. This data also contributes to NIWA's citizen science-based fish passage assessment tool, a publicly accessible national database recording instream structures and their likely impact on fish movements and river connectivity.

Portfolio:

**BIODIVERSITY
& BIOSECURITY**



Levels of Service:

0
ACHIEVED

3
ON TRACK

0
NOT ON TRACK

1
WON'T ACHIEVE

Community Outcomes:



Assessing barriers to fish passage at Little Akaloa Stream

Flood gates can prevent fish movement, so fish-friendly flood gate cantilever arms have been installed on two streams near the Waimakariri River. These modifications help keep the gates open wider and for longer, giving the fish more opportunities to move up and down stream. Environment Canterbury has also provided funding to Waimakariri District Council to enhance inanga/whitebait habitat upstream of the Courtenay Stream flood gates. The banks have been re-graded to a lower angle to increase the area exposed to tidal fluctuations and native sedges have been planted on the banks to improve suitability for inanga/whitebait spawning.



Modified floodgates at Courtenay Stream

Canterbury mudfish (kōwaro) are the most threatened of New Zealand's mudfish species. Environment Canterbury is working with landowners in South Canterbury to improve mudfish habitat in Taiko Stream. Efforts have focused on removing willows, fencing and riparian planting. Environment Canterbury is monitoring the mudfish population over time through surveys.



Area of willow removal at Taiko Stream and mudfish monitoring

Braided River Revival

Environment Canterbury has been working with partners to create a unifying brand and landscape-scale alignment for braided rivers. *Braided River Revival - Whakahaumanu ngā awa ā pākihi* will align agencies and communities involved in braided river management, reviving the critical ecological corridors from the mountains to the sea and the connections between people and rivers. This alignment will incorporate Environment Canterbury's role as a regulator alongside broader objectives of community engagement and collaborative management plans. In working with landowners, community partners and government agencies, increased community understanding and on the ground achievements can be made to enhance and protect the natural character of braided rivers.

The Ashley River/Rakahuri plan will provide an example of the new revival concept, working with Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, Waimakariri District Council and the Department of Conservation.

COVID-19 restrictions have delayed stakeholder engagement required for the development of the first ki uta ki tai/mountains to the sea plan and Level of Service 9 will not be met by the end of the financial year.

Braided river biodiversity

A new approach to conservation management in the Upper Waiau Toa/Clarence River has resulted in a 450% increase in fledgling success rates for the 2019/20 season. A five-year project with the Department of Conservation and Wildlife Management International has combined habitat enhancement and predator control to improve nesting success of black-fronted terns. Colonies were protected on river islands that were enhanced by deeper channels, predator trapping and weed removal to improve nesting habitat and remove predator cover.



Black-fronted tern on the Waiau Toa/Clarence River

Environment Canterbury has assisted the Ashley-Rakahuri Rivercare Group with equipment purchases and is also supporting funding for weed control ahead of the bird breeding season. Weed control work in the upper Rangitata and Rakaia is making good progress.

Managing wetlands as farm assets

With support from the Sustainable Farming Fund, Environment Canterbury is working with landowners to develop seven sites to demonstrate best practice wetland management. Demonstration sites will showcase wetlands from Hawarden, Kaikōura, Otematata, Hakataramea, Windwhistle, Te Waihora and Pigeon Bay. Land uses include deer, sheep and beef, merino and dairy. Fonterra has recently joined the Steering Group and a new project manager has been appointed.

Environment Canterbury has worked with landowners and helped fund 87 hectares of willow control in five wetlands in the Mackenzie Basin, contributing to the protection of 520 hectares of wetland.

Biosecurity Advisory Groups

Four Biosecurity Advisory Groups were recently established, changing the way Environment Canterbury works with communities. These groups champion the implementation of the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan and provide advice on agricultural and biodiversity pest management to support good biosecurity practices such as farm biosecurity initiatives.

The four groups (Northern, Central, Christchurch/Banks Peninsula and Southern) have representation from urban and rural community groups, subject matter experts, Rūnanga, and territorial authorities including regional and district council Councillors. The first group meetings occurred in February. These meetings provide a public forum for discussion of biosecurity matters and community feedback on Environment Canterbury biosecurity work. Details of future meetings are available on the Environment Canterbury website: ecan.govt.nz/BAGmeetings

Level of Service update

Progress remains on track for most Levels of Service in the Biodiversity & Biosecurity portfolio. However, Level of Service 9 will not be achieved this financial year:

Target 9.1a: Develop a ki uta ki tai plan for one priority river annually, with the first plan being delivered by 30 June 2020 and then one plan for each year afterwards. COVID-19 restrictions have delayed stakeholder engagement required for the development of the first ki uta ki tai/mountains to the sea plan.

Biodiversity & Biosecurity programmes:

- Braided Rivers
- Biosecurity
- Regional Biodiversity
- Wetlands





Moving towards smarter, more sustainable public transport

COVID-19 caused major disruption for public transport during quarter three, however Environment Canterbury has also achieved key milestones in quarter three supporting the move to smarter, more sustainable public transport systems, including shifting towards new, low-emission buses and on-demand services.

The future of public transport

The COVID-19 crisis has significantly disrupted public transport and will continue to do so over the coming year. Fares were not taken on public transport in Canterbury from March 25th until June 14th, with the Government providing funding to cover all fare revenue loss through this period. It is expected that fare pressure will continue for some time after this date, and industry engagement with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency will be focused on this over the coming month.

The Greater Christchurch future public transport business cases will influence the public transport investment plans in the upcoming Regional Land Transport Plan and partner council's Long-Term Plans. Work has been progressing on the Foundations and Rest of Network components, although some delays have been experienced due to COVID-19. Procurement of resource for the Mass Rapid Transit business case is almost complete and work is expected to commence this in June. The Greater Christchurch Public Transport Joint Committee workshop in April was a key opportunity for Councillors to gain insight into current thinking and analysis.

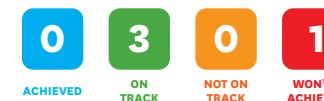
The public transport contract tender process is now complete with the recent awarding of the Diamond Harbour ferry contract to Black Cat Cruises Ltd.

Portfolio:

**TRANSPORT
& URBAN
DEVELOPMENT**



Levels of Service:



Community Outcomes:



Planning for the Waimakariri direct commuter services continues, with the final decision about rating to be made through the Annual Plan process. Discussions between partners involved in the Christchurch Northern Corridor and High Occupancy Vehicle projects at a staff and governance level took place to inform the Annual Plan rating decision.

Timaru's on-demand service, MyWay by Metro, stepped in as the only public transport service operating during COVID-19 alert levels three and four and is now in full service, although free fares continue. MyWay has seen strong engagement and steady increases in use by the community through this time with positive feedback from its patrons.

Public transport advertising tender

Tenders for bus advertising have been received and are being evaluated. A key part of this process will be the development of appropriate policy around the nature and scope of what can be advertised on public transport services.

Work is well underway developing the new single livery design for the public transport network to improve customer recognition, engagement and understanding. This will align with other major urban networks in New Zealand and is incorporated within the recently completed bus contract tender outcomes.

Supply chain disruption for bus manufacturing will impact new contract transitions and potentially delay the delivery of new vehicles. GoBus has advised that they can provide access to enough vehicles within the New Zealand fleet to ensure contract transition obligations are met. However, the vehicles will be older and temporary until the new vehicles arrive.

Canterbury Regional Land Transport Plan

Environment Canterbury has continued working with territorial authorities and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency in preparing the next Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) for Canterbury. The focus during quarter three has been to develop the strategic direction of the plan, which includes setting a vision and objectives for transport in the region. The Canterbury Regional Transport Committee, which is responsible for developing the plan, has provided leadership throughout this strategic direction setting process. The RLTP must be submitted to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency by the end of April 2021. Public consultation on the draft plan is expected to be held from December 2020.

Providing views on key legislation and policy

In quarter three staff prepared Environment Canterbury and the Regional Transport Committee's submission on the draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport and the draft Rail Plan for submission in quarter four. These are both key Government documents that set out its long-term vision and priorities for investment in the land transport network and rail network, respectively.

The Government consulted on several legislative changes at the start of 2020 that have implications for how transport and urban development are planned for and delivered in New Zealand. This included the Land Transport (Rail) Legislation Bill, Land Transport (NZTA) Legislation Amendment Bill, Urban Development Bill, and the Greater Christchurch Regeneration Amendment Bill. Environment Canterbury provided submissions as part of these consultations to ensure the region's interests are considered as part of these legislative changes. You can read these submissions on the Environment Canterbury website:

ecan.govt.nz/about-us/your-council/submissions-from-ecan

The Ministry of Transport has also released the draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2021 and the draft New Zealand Rail Plan for consultation. These strategic documents will help guide investment in land transport across New Zealand by outlining the Government's long-term strategic view and priorities for investment. Environment Canterbury is preparing submissions as part of these consultations, which are due to close in May 2020.

Change to the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement

In September 2019 the Council resolved to apply to the Minister for the Environment to use the streamlined planning process under the Resource Management Act 1991 to make a proposed change to Chapter 6 (Recovery and Rebuilding of Greater Christchurch) of the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement. This proposed change identifies future urban development areas in Rolleston, Rangiora and Kaiapoi, and inserts associated policy provisions. It implements an action from the Our Space 2018-2048: Greater Christchurch Settlement Pattern Update. On 29 April, the Minister issued a direction for Environment Canterbury to enter the streamlined planning process to make this proposed change. The direction sets out the planning process and timeframes.

Level of Service update

Progress remains on track for most Levels of Service in the Transport & Urban Development portfolio. Three of six targets within Level of Service 27 will not be met by the end of the financial year. These are outlined below:

Target 27.2: **20 million trips by 2020 and 35 million trips by 2030.** As central city regeneration has been slower than anticipated this target cannot be met and it has since been revised in the Regional Public Transport Plan to 18 million by 2024.

Target 27.3: **3% of total trips by 2020 and 5% of total trips by 2030 as measured by the Ministry of Transport**

latest household travel survey. This target will now be based on the revised Regional Public Transport Plan target in 27.2.

Target 27.4: **50% cost recovery from passengers in Canterbury by 2020.** This target was revised in the Regional Public Transport Plan to better reflect current conditions with the target now stating, 'to maintain and improve on current farebox', which is currently being achieved.

Transport & Urban Development programmes:

- Regional Transport
- Urban Development
- Public Transport





Adapting to change

The response to COVID-19 dominated quarter three, which required rapid adaptation as resources were refocused and as the implications of alert level restrictions became known.



Portfolio:

**HAZARDS, RISK
& RESILIENCE**



Levels of
Service:

1
ACHIEVED

15
ON
TRACK

0
NOT ON
TRACK

0
WON'T
ACHIEVE

Community
Outcomes:



Emergency management

The Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group coordinated the regional response to COVID-19, activating the Emergency Coordination Centre, which is resourced by trained staff from across Environment Canterbury. Work focused on welfare (needs assessment and fulfilment) and repatriation (isolation and quarantine coordination for flights to and from Christchurch). Other Civil Defence activities remained on track, though some projects were delayed, such as developing the Alpine Fault response plan. The Civil Defence Emergency Management Group plan review was postponed with the new date yet to be confirmed.

Rangitata River floods

Flooding along the Rangitata River in December 2019 caused disruption and extensive damage to river protection works, with road and rail access on the east coast cut off for several days. Emergency in-river works were carried out to control and divert flows, and to strengthen three key river berm areas, at a cost of around \$700,000.

Funding arrangements for emergency, ongoing and potential works are being discussed with infrastructure owners (Environment Canterbury, Timaru District Council, Ashburton District Council, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, KiwiRail, Transpower and Rangitata South Irrigation); total repair costs, yet to be determined, are expected to run into millions

of dollars. Discussions are also ongoing with Arowhenua Rūnanga and the Department of Conservation.

Assessing risks from a changing climate

May 2020 marked one year since Environment Canterbury became the first council in New Zealand to make a climate emergency declaration. In quarter three the focus continued to be ensuring climate change was robustly, consistently and visibly incorporated into work and decisions across all portfolios.

In March the Regional Climate Change Working Group (a staff group under the Mayoral Forum comprising Canterbury councils and Ngāi Tahu) convened, which aims to develop a shared understanding of the likely implications of climate change and strategies to manage associated threats and opportunities. A first-pass climate change risk screening is being finalised, designed to support identification of priority work and regional engagement with the National Climate Change Risk Assessment.

The risk screening interim reports were presented to Environment Canterbury Councillors in April, achieving Level of Service target 23.3. The Mayoral Forum is expected to consider these reports in June 2020. The Regional Climate Change Working Group will develop the scope and approach for a more detailed risk assessment.

Environment Canterbury commissioned research from NIWA about what might happen in Canterbury between now and 2100. These projections are available on the Environment Canterbury website: ecan.govt.nz/ccprojections

Understanding the changing environment

The Canterbury wave buoy and Sumner and Timaru sea level recorders are operating well in project partnership with NIWA and provide important data on long and short-term ocean waves and sea levels. Environment Canterbury's region-wide, long-term monitoring of coastal cross sections continued and up until March, 80% of the programmed sites for 2019/2020 were surveyed and processed.

The weekly sampling at coastal and estuarine swimming sites finished in early March. Five of the eight intertidal mudflat

sites were sampled in March. Weekly sampling data is reported on the LAWA website: LAWA.org.nz/explore-data

Some surveys within the coastal cross section fieldwork programme will not be completed this year. This will leave a gap in the long-term record which is undesirable but not critical. Within the coastal water quality monitoring programme, intertidal mudflat monitoring will not be fully completed due to COVID-19. The sampling of the macrobiota at three of the intertidal mudflat sites (sampled annually) has been abandoned because lockdown restrictions precluded sampling from being undertaken in the seasonal timeframe.

South Christchurch landfill

This former landfill site was discovered in a residential suburb when homes were being rebuilt or repaired after the earthquakes. Between 2014 and 2016 Environment Canterbury received independent reports indicating high concentrations of trace elements in soil.

Since 2015, progressive investigations revealed high concentrations of arsenic and lead affecting up to 22 properties. These investigations were funded with \$70,000 from the Ministry for the Environment (MfE)'s Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund (CSRF) and \$30,000 from Environment Canterbury and Christchurch City Council. Further work and grant applications have been covered within existing contaminated land budgets, apart from Christchurch City Council sharing the cost of an Assessment of Remedial Options in 2018.

In August 2018, a CSRF application sought 100% funding for a \$1.6 million clean-up of the surface soils; a \$1,015,350 grant was offered in April the following year. Christchurch City Council in July 2019 requested Environment Canterbury again seek full CSRF funding; it was confirmed in late December that there would be no further grant.

In response to this constraint, a review of remediation options was initiated in quarter three. The review identified cost savings, primarily through reducing the volume of soil to be excavated and disposed. Estimated costs now align with the available funding.

Concours electroplaters site in Timaru

Environment Canterbury has been working with Timaru District Council to rectify a legacy of poor environmental management at the former Concours Electroplaters site, with remediation planning funded by the Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund (CSRF).

In April, a virtual workshop with Timaru District Councillors progressed a Remedial Action Plan (RAP), with options narrowed to two: onsite encapsulation or disposal to landfill, the latter requested by the Timaru District Council. Additional work is required to complete the RAP, including an engineering survey of the building to calculate the volumes of material involved and further sampling to determine how many contaminants need to be treated to prevent leaching. Environment Canterbury will fund a portion of this work not covered by the CSRF.

Risk assessment of existing and legacy landfills

Environment Canterbury is leading a multi-agency national project to assess risks from existing and legacy landfills. The aim is to develop a nationally applicable tool for assessing landfill vulnerability to natural hazards, including climate change. The project comprises three phases: scoping methodologies and information held nationally; building a risk-assessment model using information from three regions (Canterbury, Southland and West Coast) to produce a desktop risk assessment; sharing the tool nationally and ground-truthing the results from the pilot by conducting site-specific risk assessments. The project has moved into phase two in quarter three, with Tonkin + Taylor due to deliver the next report in July 2020.

Burwood landfill site

The Burwood landfill site closed on 31 December 2019 resulting in reduced capacity for storing highly contaminated waste in Christchurch. Combined with the expected waste levy increase, this may increase the risk of illegal waste-dumping practices and therefore could lead to increased monitoring of compliance and enforcement activities for the next one to two years, until a replacement landfill site is established.

Changing cruise ship sector due to COVID-19

The busy cruise ship season was curtailed by the COVID-19 response. Very limited visits are expected next season, resulting in lost revenue of about \$200,000, which corresponds with the reduction in work that will be required to support the cruise ship visits. Other commercial shipping support work continued this quarter, as Lyttelton and Timaru ports remained operational.

Good weather resulted in high recreational boating activity but COVID-19 brought the boating season to an early finish and the alert level four restrictions meant boat owners were not able to carry out safety checks on their boats. The Harbourmaster's Office arranged for contractors in Lyttelton and Akaroa to carry out safety surveillance of boats on swing moorings, which was well received by boat owners.

The Harbourmaster's Office was audited in early March and retained ISO9001:2015 accreditation. NZ Port & Harbour Marine Safety Code consistency status was also assessed in quarter three and maintained for Akaroa while also being extended to include the entire coastal area. The ongoing boating safety communications plan was delivered as planned and gained positive feedback from the boating community.

The Regional Marine Oil Spill Response Plan is under review and on track to be completed and approved within the mandated timeframe.

Helping communities make the right decisions

Environment Canterbury continues to provide natural hazard technical support to district and city councils including:

- Collaborating with Timaru District Council on a coastal hazard assessment for the Timaru district which models future shoreline position and coastal storm inundation under different sea level rise scenarios.
- Aiding Timaru District Council's development of provisions for the Hut Settlement Zone section of the draft District Plan by writing a report on hazard risk to the District's hut settlements, including flood modelling for the Waipopo Huts.

- Working with the Selwyn District Council to provide technical information on coastal, flood and geologic hazards for their District Plan review. As part of their engagement and consultation process, Environment Canterbury was involved in disseminating the technical hazards information, including building an interactive web-application to aid understanding of the natural hazards.
- Working with Waitaki, Waimakariri and Kaikōura District Councils to provide technical information and advice on earthquake faults, liquefaction, landslides and tsunamis for District Plan reviews and Plan Changes.
- Working with Kaikōura District Council to provide technical information in readiness for their District Plan Hazards chapter review.
- Investigating the Lower Styx floodplain, with a draft circulated to Christchurch City Council for input. The Little River modelling report is complete and being reviewed by Environment Canterbury's river engineers.
- The Waimakariri River design standard and Ashley River/Rakahuri service level investigations are underway, as requested by Waimakariri District Council.

Environment Canterbury's Hazards and Coastal team provides natural hazard information (primarily flood and geologic hazards) to customers and stakeholders, including property owners or potential purchasers and staff from district and city councils.

Land information requests contain information about consents, wells, water resources, and natural hazards. Flood hazard assessments are detailed site-specific flooding assessments, often including floor level recommendations for the purposes of attaining building consent. General hazard information requests include all other types of information requests received.

For the period 1 January to 30 April Environment Canterbury responded to several requests for information and advice, underpinned by historical observations, scientific research, and computer modelling.

97 land information requests year-to-date

28 requests responded to this period

121 flood hazard assessments year-to-date

33 assessments this period

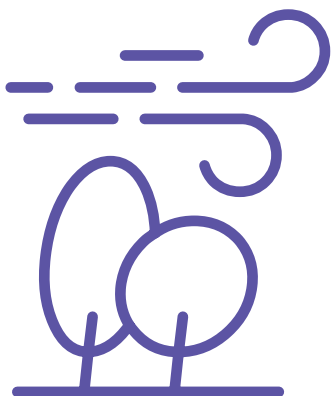
111 general enquiries about natural hazards year-to-date

46 enquiries responded to this period

Hazards, Risk & Resilience programmes:

- Natural Hazards
- Navigation and Recreational Boating Safety
- Flood Protection and Control Works
- Coastal Environment and Hazards
- Emergency Management
- Contaminated Land, Hazardous Substances and Waste
- Climate Change Integration





Improving information for better outcomes

The COVID-19 response changed some of Environment Canterbury's focus areas for quarter three. Significant progress was made in addressing a long-standing odour issue for Bromley residents, while the inability to repair monitoring equipment in North Canterbury during lockdown has meant one Level of Service will not be achieved.

Exceedances in the Washdyke airshed

The Washdyke airshed is unlike the other seven airsheds in Canterbury as the particulate matter (PM) concentrations are dominated by coarse particles (not fine particles from home heating) and exceedances can occur at any time of year, not just in winter. In March 2019, the monitoring site was moved closer to the centre of Washdyke, when the old site became unavailable, and this has seen a large increase in the number of exceedances. PM concentrations were significantly lower at Washdyke during alert level four, due to reduced industrial activity in the area. Work is ongoing to identify the source of these coarse particles, so efforts can be made to reduce the emissions.

Understanding the changes and trends in home heating

In quarter three Environment Canterbury spent a lot of time improving the accuracy of historic information about solid fuel burners. The burner information is used by the public and staff to build an accurate picture of the nature and quantity of solid fuel burners in Clean Air Zones, and their changes over time. This information is used by the public to determine whether they need to upgrade their burner,

Portfolio:

**AIR
QUALITY**



Levels of
Service:

0

ACHIEVED

2

ON
TRACK

0

NOT ON
TRACK

1

WON'T
ACHIEVE

Community
Outcomes:



HIGH POLLUTION NIGHTS 1 JANUARY TO 30 APRIL 2010

Ashburton	Christchurch	Geraldine	Kaipoi	Rangiora	Timaru	Washdyke	Waimate
0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0

HIGH POLLUTION NIGHTS 1 JANUARY TO 30 APRIL 2020

Ashburton	Christchurch	Geraldine	Kaipoi	Rangiora	Timaru	Washdyke	Waimate
0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0

MAXIMUM HIGH POLLUTION NIGHTS ALLOWED PER YEAR

Ashburton	Christchurch	Geraldine	Kaipoi	Rangiora	Timaru	Washdyke	Waimate
3	3	1	3	1	3	1	3

Maximum allowable high pollution nights per airshed are determined by the NESAQ. From September 2020 the target for each airshed will become one or fewer high pollution events per calendar year.

and by staff to determine whether a house has a compliant burner. Staff also use the information to determine how many burners are likely to need replacing in coming years, and scientists use the information to determine likely total emissions from home heating and how much these need to reduce by to meet the standards in the National Environmental Standard for Air Quality (for particulate

matter 10 microns or less in diameter (PM₁₀)), and the Canterbury Air Regional Plan (for particulate matter smaller than 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5})).

Loss of air quality monitoring data

Faults at the Rangiora and Kaiapoi monitoring stations that were unable to be repaired during the alert level four lockdown resulted in a period when monitoring data could not be collected. Consequently, only 92% of the 95% of data required under the National Environmental Standard for Air Quality (NESAQ) guidelines has been captured. As a result, Level of Service target 28.1 for both Rangiora and Kaiapoi air monitoring sites has not been met, which prevents achievement of Level of Service 28.

Healthier Homes Canterbury and financial assistance

Under alert level four supplier activity for Healthier Homes Canterbury (HHC) paused. Under alert level three, some HHC and home heating assistance suppliers were able to resume operating after providing updated health and safety plans that accounted for COVID-19 risks. Home assessments for subsidies also progressed at alert level three.

NESAQ proposed amendments

The National Air Quality Working Group meeting in March was cancelled due to COVID-19 lockdown and the 24 April deadline for submissions on proposed amendments to the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality (NESAQ) was extended to 31 July 2020. The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) held remote workshops on the proposed amendments to the NESAQ in mid-May. Staff will now engage with Councillors to prepare Environment Canterbury's submission.

Bromley odour pilot update

The focus for quarter three was piloting a solution for odour identification and management in Bromley. The Bromley odour pilot was established as an innovative and alternative way to assess how odours impact a community's amenity values.

This pilot was the result of collaborative workshops involving geospatial, zone delivery and communications staff as well as external experts – expanding to include Christchurch City Council staff and industry. From these meetings, novel data collection and community engagement approaches were developed with the aim of better understanding the odour issue in the Bromley area, including the launch of the 'Smelt-it?' app. Community members had submitted numerous odour complaints regarding specific industries within Bromley spanning back a decade or more. More than 200 odour assessments were conducted during the month-long pilot, including 10-minute odour assessments, but also 'on the move' assessments where the FIDOL (frequency, intensity, duration, [odour] character, location) scale was used to investigate several locations in quick succession wherever an odour was detected.

The pilot has substantiated two significant sources of odour in Bromley, which will be subject to remedial action. Environment Canterbury will work with the Christchurch City Council on this, and will also continue to work with other odour-emitting businesses in Bromley and will continue to investigate the potential for multiple odours to create a worse one. The pilot has also shown that the 'Smelt It?' app is a useful tool to help communities easily report odour issues, which could be used in other locations in future.



Staff ready to talk with the Bromley community about the 'Smelt it?' app

Dust and odour

The hearing for the Templeton quarry application reconvened on 5 February. The hearing panel formally received the applicant's right of reply and asked further questions of clarification arising from it. The Section 42A report recommended declining the application, with the possibility of air pollution as one of the reasons. A joint decision was issued on 24 April and the application has been granted with conditions. The appeal period has been extended by the Environment Court to 29 June due to COVID-19 following a request from a submitter.

There is a limited notification consent application regarding odour from a proposed waste processing and stabilisation facility at 305 Marshs Road, South Hornby, which is on track for a July hearing.

Farmers in mid and south Canterbury were advised on crop residue burning, while outdoor burning complaints were followed up across Canterbury. In Christchurch, industry installed dust monitoring devices around quarries to monitor dust levels, the data from which can be made available to Environment Canterbury on request.

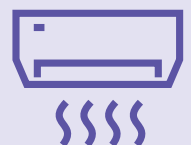
Level of Service update

Progress remains on track for most Levels of Service in the Air Quality portfolio. However, one of the two targets associated with Level of Service 28 will not be achieved this financial year:

Target 28.1: Airshed monitoring and reporting is completed to the National Environmental Standard for Air Quality requirements. Faults at the Rangiora and Kaiapoi monitoring stations during the alert level four lockdown resulted in lost ability to collect monitoring data, so only 92% of the 95% of data required under the NESAQ guidelines has been captured.

Air Quality programmes:

- Air Quality Monitoring and Progress Reporting
- Cleaner Home Heating
- Non-Domestic Emissions





Adaptive leadership

The Council has remained future focused while navigating current issues and keeping Cantabrians' wellbeing front of mind. During COVID-19, Environment Canterbury has drawn on strong relationships to innovate and realise new opportunities.



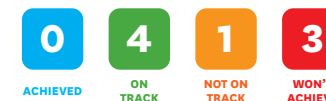
Councillors during their Strategic Direction workshop

Portfolio:

**REGIONAL
LEADERSHIP**



Levels of
Service:



Community
Outcomes:



Planning for the future

In February, Council adopted the draft 2020/21 Annual Plan (year three of the Long-Term Plan) with a proposed rates increase of 9.8%. The bulk of the proposed rates increase for 2020/21 was for improved public transport services, reserves to maintain and build flood protection infrastructure, and freshwater management.

Community, partners and stakeholders were invited to 'Have your Say' and over 160 pieces of feedback were received. In addition to feedback on the draft Annual Plan, input was sought on Canterbury's 'Better Future' to inform the development of the Strategic Direction of Council and the Long-Term Plan 2021-31. Late feedback was also accepted as the impacts of COVID-19 became evident in late March. Virtual hearings were held in April and 27 individuals and groups took the opportunity to speak to Council via online virtual hearings.

In response to community feedback on the rates increase and the economic implications of COVID-19, Council asked staff to review the draft Annual Plan with consideration for new priorities. Staff presented a range of options to reduce the overall rates increase, including a preferred option of 4% rates increase.

Setting Strategic Direction

In quarter three Council has been developing their Strategic Direction (2020-2023) to guide the development of the 2021-2031 Long-Term Plan (LTP) and to set out the future direction for the organisation. The Strategic Direction provides for both 'enduring priorities' representing the Council's core and ongoing activities and 'transformational opportunities' describing aspirational future priorities. Council will continue to engage with communities on the draft Strategic Direction as part of developing the Long-Term Plan.

Chief Executive's departure

At the end of April Bill Bayfield left Environment Canterbury after almost ten years in the role of Chief Executive. He has been appointed Establishment Chief Executive of Taumata Arowāi, a new national water services regulator. The Council held an extraordinary meeting to confirm the appointment of Stefanie Rixecker, current Director of Science, to the role of Acting Chief Executive until such time as a permanent Chief Executive is appointed.

Working Groups of Council

In April Council formed two Working Groups, one for Public Visibility and another for Planting and Regeneration. The Public Visibility Working Group will make recommendations to Council on the transparency of Council business, including community engagement, democratic processes, and community participation in democratic decision-making. The Planting and Regeneration Working Group will develop a proposal for a region-wide ecological planting and native regeneration programme for inclusion in the next Long-Term Plan.

Realising opportunities

The Mayoral Forum is comprised of the region's Mayors and the Chair of Environment Canterbury. The Forum is the primary mechanism for local government communication, coordination and collaboration in Canterbury to drive regional development and achieve a strong regional economy with resilient, connected communities and a better quality of life for all.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, the Mayoral Forum supported increased coordination across the region with

weekly meetings to support regional collaboration and advocacy. The Mayoral Forum website was relaunched with improved content and functionality, which is being used to communicate news, actions and meeting details: canterburymayors.org.nz

Te Ara Whakamua

As the Environment Canterbury Transitional Governance Arrangements Act expired at the last election, Ngāi Tahu, the iwi holding mana whenua for Canterbury, are no longer able to nominate two Councillors to be appointed to Environment Canterbury. Environment Canterbury Councillors are working with Papatipu Rūnanga Chairs to develop an alternative arrangement for Ngāi Tahu participation in Environment Canterbury decision-making.

Data as an asset

Environment Canterbury has been working with regional councils across the country to improve public access to council data through the LAWA website. In April the new Groundwater Quality topic was launched, providing state and trend information for groundwater sites on an interactive national map: LAWA.org.nz/explore-data/groundwater-quality

The data is evaluated for five widely recognised indicators of groundwater quality: *E. coli*, nitrate, phosphorous, chloride, and electrical conductivity. Together, they provide insight to the presence of pathogens, nutrients, and seawater intrusion. The data is also supported by factsheets, videos, and a glossary to assist locals, iwi, scientists, policy-makers, and industry to interpret and make use of this excellent resource. This is a significant addition to the LAWA dataset, and it has required a lot of work over the past year and a half.

Environment Canterbury's Water Data team have developed a simple 'water quantity accounting tool' to compare the plan limits with consented allocation for each groundwater zone and river reach. This tool can be used by Customer Services to query water availability in an area and provide advice on whether water is available to be used for irrigation at that time. This is being tested by Customer Services and similar tools are in development for the Consents team and wider organisation.

Consents and compliance

In March the Council approved the proposal to commence a Special Consultation Process on the proposed increase to the hourly charge out rates in the Fees and Charges Policy. The proposed change would increase the consenting charges to match the costs of delivering this function so that Council is able to recover actual and reasonable costs in line with Council Policy and reduce the financial impact on the general ratepayer. The consultation has been delayed due to COVID-19 and will occur later in the year.

1,459 consent applications have been received year-to-date

1062 decisions have been made, representing 99.5% timeframe compliance

3,835 resource consents have been monitored year-to-date, with 4968 inspections conducted

Just over 220 written warnings for non-compliance have been issued, with 34 Abatement Notices, 14 Infringements, and 3 prosecutions initiated.

3,197 resource management incident reports received year-to-date

Of these, just over 4% were considered to have moderate (140) or major (3) impact. 29 Abatement Notices were issued, along with 43 Infringements, and 2 prosecutions initiated.

Council submissions to Central Government

In quarter three Environment Canterbury made submissions to the Government on;

- Land Transport (Rail) Legislation Bill, (February 2020)
- Land Transport (NZTA) Legislation Amendment Bill, (February 2020)
- Urban Development Bill, (February 2020)
- Proposed National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity, (February 2020)
- Resource Management Issues and Options, (February 2020)
- Waste disposal levy expansions, (February 2020)
- Greater Christchurch Regeneration Amendment Bill, (March 2020)
- Proposed National Environment Standard on the Outdoor Storage of Tyres, (March 2020).

Connecting with communities

Environment Canterbury undertakes a quarterly review of feedback from partners and stakeholders. Results collated over the last 18 months indicate most stakeholders have very positive relationships, high levels of confidence and easy working relationships with Environment Canterbury and over 90% of participants regard Environment Canterbury as a trusted partner.

192

official information requests covering a range of topics were responded to year-to-date

67 responded to this period



The Youth Rōpū held its first monthly meeting with the Youth Rōpū Committee Councillors on 22 April. These meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday each month with the purpose of sharing ideas, providing project updates and discussing hot topics.

Level of Service update

COVID-19 has disrupted business and as a result one Level of Service is at risk and three will not be achieved.

Target 32.2: **At least 95% of the Levels of Service targets included in the 2018-28 Long-Term Plan achieved each year.** It is expected that at least five Level of Service targets across all portfolios will not be achieved, resulting in failure of this target.

Target 33.1: **Environment Canterbury-Ngāi Tahu Governance meetings are held quarterly, and working group forums are held every two months. Work plans are in place and reviewed annually.** Scheduled meetings for March and April were cancelled as a result of the alert level four lockdown, work planning has not been affected.

Target 37.2b: **Develop framework for coordinated reporting on mātauranga Māori alongside state of the environment information (2019/20).** Capacity issues for Environment

518

media enquiries were responded to year-to-date

159 responded to this period



170.3K

total engagements across social channels year-to-date

58.6K engagements this period,



Canterbury and the contractor has meant the target will not be achieved this financial year.

Target 38.1: **95% or more of sampled customer service interactions, on average over each year, meet service standards.** This target is at risk as staff have been unable to work at the same capacity when working from home (noting this Level of Service was on track to be achieved as at March 2020).

21,417

followers across social channels

(not including Civil Defence & Metro)



361,897

users on ecan.govt.nz site

152,954 users this period



Regional Leadership programmes:

- Governance and Engagement
- Strategy and Direction
- Ngāi Tahu and Regional Relationships
- Long-Term Community Planning
- Plans, Consenting and Compliance
- Our Information and Advice

